



Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/801,977

Atty Dkt No.: 45039.0028
Customer Number 57362

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:
a base formed from a material, the base including an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base and defines an internal edge of the base; and
at least two retention members extending from said base,
wherein said retention members are formed integral with and from the same material
as said base,
wherein the internal edge of the base is continuous with an edge of the material forming the retention members, and
wherein said retention members are configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the base and include~~including~~a surface that is formed to define a cavity~~extending~~
~~approximately perpendicular to said base.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said inflator opening~~base is provided~~~~defines an inflator opening~~ between said retention members.
3. (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said surface is an arcuate surface.

4. (Currently amended) The bracket of claim 3 wherein said retention members each include an insertion point and a lip, said insertion point extending a greater distance from said base than said lip.

5. (Original) The bracket of claim 3 wherein said retention members further define a retention cavity.

6. (Original) The bracket of claim 5 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

7. (Original) The bracket of claim 6 wherein said cavity extending from said base is at least partially located between said first and second engagement surfaces.

8. (Original) The bracket of claim 1 wherein said surface includes a first leg and a second leg angled relative to said first leg and a center leg disposed between said first and second legs.

9. (Original) The bracket of claim 8 wherein said legs define a retention cavity and wherein said first leg defines a first engagement surface within said retention cavity and said second leg defines a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

10. (Currently Amended) An airbag subassembly comprising:

a support structure having at least two apertures;~~and~~

a bracket having a base formed from a material, the base including an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base and defines an internal edge of the base;

and

at least two retention members extending from said base,

wherein said retention members are formed integral with and from the same material as said base,

wherein the internal edge of the base is continuous with an edge of the material forming the retention members,

wherein said retention members are configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the base and include~~including~~ a surface that is formed to define a cavity~~extending approximately perpendicular to said base, and~~

wherein said retention members are adapted to extend through said apertures in said support structure.

11. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 further including a retention mechanism coupled to said support structure to engage said retention members to couple said bracket to said support structure.

12. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 11 wherein said retention members define a retention cavity, and wherein said retention mechanism is disposable into said retention cavity.

13. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention members define a first engagement surface and a second engagement surface within said retention cavity.

14. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism includes an engaged position and said retention mechanism engages said first and second engagement surfaces in said engaged position.

15. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 14 wherein said retention mechanism includes a rest position, and said retention members include an insertion point, a contact surface and a lip between said contact surface and said insertion point and wherein said insertion point, said lip and said contact surface displace said retention mechanism from said rest position as said retention members are inserted into said aperture, until said retention mechanism becomes disposed in said retention cavity in said engaged position.

16. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 12 wherein said retention mechanism partially obstructs said apertures in said rest position.

17. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a sealing plate.

18. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 17 further including a housing between said sealing plate and said support structure, said housing defining at least two pin receivers to allow said retention members to pass through said housing and into said apertures on said support structure.

19. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a housing.

20. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a retainer ring.

21. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said bracket is a stamped metal bracket with said retention members being stamped integral with said base.

22. (Currently amended) The airbag subassembly of claim 21 wherein said bracket defines ~~an~~the inflator opening between said retention members.

23. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a horn bracket.

24. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 22 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature.

25. (Currently Amended) The airbag subassembly of claim 1023 further including a horn bracket between said support structure and said bracket, said horn bracket defining at least two pin receivers for allowing passage of said retention members to said apertures.

26. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said support structure is a steering wheel armature and said bracket is a horn bracket.

27. (Original) The airbag subassembly of claim 10 wherein said retention members include at least three contact areas for engaging said apertures.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing~~stamping~~ a metal sheet having a base defined thereon~~to~~;

defining~~define~~ an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base; ~~and stamped~~

defining retention members that extend~~extending~~ into said inflator opening;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the opening; and

bending said ~~stamped~~ retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with and from a same material as the base for coupling said metal sheet to the support structure.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of stamping said metal sheets includes forming~~defines~~ a retention cavity in said ~~stamped~~ retention members.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said ~~stamped~~ retention members includes the step of bending~~raising~~ said ~~stamped~~ retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base~~metal sheet~~ and curling said ~~stamped~~ retention members to form a surface defining a cavity extending perpendicular to said metal sheet.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28 wherein said step of bending said ~~stamped~~ retention members includes the step of curling said ~~stamped~~ retention members to form shaped retention members.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein said step of bending said ~~stamped~~ retention members includes the step of bending~~raising~~ said shaped retention members to be approximately perpendicular to said base~~metal sheet~~ after said step of curling said ~~stamped~~ retention members.

33. (New) A bracket for an airbag subassembly comprising:

a base formed from a material, the base including an inflator opening that is positioned in an internal portion of the base and defines an internal edge of the base; and
at least two retention members extending from said base and having a curved shaped, including a curved interface at a portion of the at least two retention members that contact the base,

wherein said retention members are formed integral with and from the same material as said base,

wherein the internal edge of the base or an external edge of the base is continuous with an edge of the material forming the retention members, and

wherein said retention members are configured to extend substantially perpendicular to the base and include a surface that is formed to define a cavity.

34. (New) A method of forming a bracket for an airbag subassembly for retaining an airbag module on a support structure, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a metal sheet having a base defined thereon;

defining an inflator opening in the base, the inflator opening being positioned in an internal portion of the base;

defining retention members that extend into said inflator opening or that extend outwardly from the base, wherein an internal edge of the base or an external edge of the base is continuous with an edge of the retention members;

stamping the metal sheet to remove portions of the metal sheet, including portions defined by the opening;

curling the retention members to include a curved interface at a portion of the retention members that contact the base; and

bending the retention members to form an angle between the retention members and the base, such that the retention members are formed integral with and from a same material as the base.